

ESLANDA ROBESON

An interview with Mrs. Robeson, printed in Blitz, contained the following information concerning the AAPC at Accra, Ghana:

**American Bid to Scuttle Conference**

One curious aspect of the conference was the interest shown in it by the Americans. There were more American Whites there than from any other country. They formed a group of more than 30. Some came as observers, some as fraternal delegates--but with not more than five or six Negroes among them!

They were, in Eslanda's opinion, unofficial representatives of the U.S. State Department. They took it upon themselves to "explain" American foreign policy and, on every issue, they voted against the African line. They tried to get an unqualified resolution on non-violence, a so-called "gradual approach" towards independence, supported a very vocal anti-Nkrumah group from Ghana, and tried to set Nasser and Nkrumah against each other.

**American Negro and African Liberty**

"Yes", she said, "the question of Africa is one of colonialism and the American Negro too is held in a colonial position. Its solution in Africa is bound to have repercussions in America. The leader of the Ghana Delegation to the United Nations had said in his maiden speech that his country's independence would actively help the American Negroes. Our people are very conscious of the relationship and large number of them are pouring into Ghana to work.

"Many of our people in New York crowd into public benches at the UNO just to see the African delegates sitting there on equal terms with the White nations. Even American Whites are being affected. They dare not behave towards Negroes as they used to because they cannot be sure if it is an Ambassador or a hall porter they are pushing around!"

(Blitz, Bombay, December 27, 1958)

In an article by Eslanda Robeson printed in Blitz, the following statements, among others, were made:

".... The white western colonial people are the minority, and always have been. However, for centuries, they have brain-washed the world's people by arrogantly pretending, and insisting, that they were the majority and the superior, and must therefore rule the world.

"Today, with the profound changes in the orientation of the world from West to East, the white western colonial European can be clearly seen in focus as the small (but powerful and very vocal) minority in the world, and they would do well to behave, respectfully, as the minority. If they are sensible enough to do so, they may find themselves well treated, democratically, as a Minority--much more democratically than they, riding high and masquerading as the Majority treated the peoples of Africa and Asia."

(Blitz, Bombay, 10 January 1959)

The March (1959) issue of Sovremeny Vostok (Contemporary East), published by Institute of Oriental Studies, USSR Academy of Sciences, contained articles on AAPC Conference at Accra, Ghana by Dr. William DuBois, his wife Shirley Graham and Eslanda Robeson, wife of Paul Robeson. All the writers were highly critical of the AAPC proposal to adopt a policy of non-violence.

(Contemporary East, Moscow, March, 1959)